

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 15-17 are in the case.

I. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by GB '609. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Muller et al.

In response, and without conceding to the merit of these rejections, claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejections is accordingly respectfully requested.

II. ALLOWED CLAIMS

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 15-17 have been allowed. Claims 15-17 are now the only remaining claims in the case. Allowance of the application is accordingly respectfully requested.

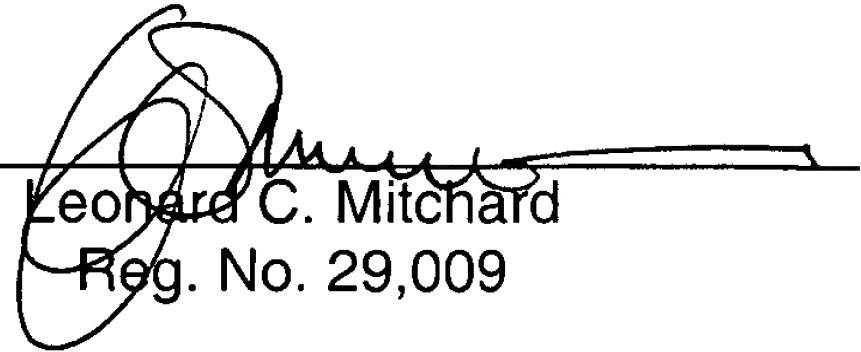
Favorable action on this application is awaited.

SOLOMON et al
Appl. No. 09/740,928
March 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____


Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100